

To whom may concern,

**Subject: evaluation of the thesis “Addressing Issues in Research on Packet Classification in Core Networks”**

The thesis is well written and presented. The topic addressed by this thesis, i.e. algorithms for packet classification and ruleset generation techniques is a very interesting and worth to study topic, as correctly identified in the Thesis introduction. Thus I confirm that the topic is appropriate to the particular area of dissertation and is it up-to-date from the viewpoint of the present level of knowledge.

The thesis presents a wide and in-depth analysis of the current literature in the field of packet classification techniques and ruleset generation for benchmarking packet classification algorithms. After the literature survey, the thesis proposes two original contributions. First, chapter 4 proposes a significant improvement to prefix set representation of a packet classification algorithm and present the hardware implementation of the proposed method. Second, a novel benchmarking tool is presented in chapter 5. The work presented in this chapter clearly outlines the limitation of current ruleset generation tools and provide a thorough framework for analysis and generation of different types (IPv4, IPv6, OpenFlow) of rulesets. These two chapters are completely original and provide a significant contribution to the research area addressed by this thesis.

The core of the doctoral thesis been published at an appropriate level, since we published in several important conferences such as *ACM/IEEE Symposium on Architectures for Networking and Communications Systems (ANCS)*, *IEEE International Conference on Field Programmable Logic and Applications (FPL)* and *IEEE International Symposium on Field-Programmable Custom Computing Machines (FCCM)*.

Thus I confirm that the list of the candidate's publications imply that he is a person with an outstanding research erudition.

Summarizing, I believe that, in my opinion, the doctoral thesis meets the requirements of the proceedings leading to PhD title conferment.

Dott. Salvatore Pontarelli, Ph.D.